



Social Security—What's In It For You

socialsecurity.gov

By now, you probably have worked various jobs where you paid taxes to support the Social Security and Medicare programs. It's important you understand what these taxes are paying for, since you likely will be paying them for the rest of your working career.

The enclosed *Social Security Statement* shows how much you have paid in taxes and provides an estimate of how much you may receive in benefits when you are eligible. Please pay close attention to a few items:

- Check your earnings information. Your earnings will determine how much you will receive in Social Security benefit payments.
- If you find an error in your earnings, please let us know right away.
- If you change jobs or your marital status, please make sure your employer has the correct name and Social Security number on record.

Why should I think about retirement now?

We realize you have a long time to go until retirement. However, if you want to be able to look forward to financial security when the time comes, it is never too early to begin planning. The good news is that Social Security will provide the foundation for your retirement income.

Financial planners generally agree retirees will need about 70-80 percent of preretirement earnings to enjoy a comfortable retirement. For an average worker, Social Security replaces about 40 percent of annual preretirement earnings, so you will need to save and invest to ensure an adequate income during retirement for you and your family.

While there are many unreliable and self-interested financial planning sources on the Internet, the federal government provides unbiased information at mymoney.gov.

You can maximize your savings through the power of compound interest and by starting early.

Will Social Security be there for me?

Social Security is there for you right now. Like most people, you probably think of Social Security as just a retirement program. However, depending on your circumstances, you may need the protection of Social Security well before retirement.

Protection if you become disabled...

Studies show that more than one in four 20-year-olds insured for disability benefits become disabled before reaching retirement age. As a result, they may need to rely on Social Security for income support.

Protection when you die...

Of course, we all hope to live long and healthy lives, but the truth is about one in seven of today's 20-year-olds will die before reaching age 67. More than two million children and surviving spouses caring for children receive Social Security survivor benefits because of a worker's death.

How do I get my *Statement* in the future?

You can get your *Statement* online anytime by creating your personal **my Social Security** account. Create your account today at socialsecurity.gov/myaccount. We encourage you to check your earnings information on your *Statement* and compare it with your own records to make sure our information is correct.

We want to make sure you are getting full credit for the taxes you are paying, so you should review the earnings information each year. You also should access your *Statement* online periodically and get up-to-date estimates of your future benefits to see how your earnings are increasing the amount of those expected benefits.

There is a wealth of information and popular services available for you and your family at one convenient location on the Internet. Learn what you can do online by visiting socialsecurity.gov/online services.

Promise of security...

It is true that Social Security faces financial problems, and action is needed soon to make sure the system can continue to pay approximately the same level of benefits. Social Security has been a contract between generations since 1935, and America has always kept the promise of security for workers and their families.